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Item 2

For Action

Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work

For the 1999 annual session of the Executive Board to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 11 June 1999

Summary

The present document contains the provisional annotated agenda for the 1999 annual session of the Executive Board. The annex contains the proposed timetable and organization of work for the session.

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Provisional agenda

Item 1: Opening of the session: statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work

Item 3: Report of the Executive Director (Part II)

Item 4: Positioning UNICEF to meet the needs of children and women in the twenty-first century

(a) Presentations by guest speakers and dialogue with Executive Board members

(b) Discussion of the following reports: "The future global agenda for children — imperatives for the twenty-first century"; "Progress report on follow-up to the World Summit for Children"; and "Programme cooperation for children and women from a human rights perspective"

Item 5: Ensuring children's rights in Africa

Item 6: Progress, challenges and future strategies in basic education

Item 7: Progress report on the UNICEF strategy and investments in information technology

Item 8: Progress report on mainstreaming gender in UNICEF

Item 9: Oral report on implementation of the health strategy for UNICEF

Item 10: Reports on field visits of Executive Board members

Item 11: Other matters

Item 12: Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session: statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

Introductory statements will be made by the President and the Executive Director.

2. Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work

[*For action*]

The provisional agenda has been structured in accordance with relevant Executive Board decisions, in particular the 1999 programme of work (E/ICEF/1998/16 and Corr.1) adopted by the Board at its second regular session in September 1998 (E/ICEF/1998/6/Rev.1, decision 1998/19). The proposed timetable and organization of work, which was shared with the Bureau on 24 March 1999, is contained in the annex.

Decisions will be adopted as the discussion of each agenda item is concluded. However, if required, time will be set aside for Board members to consult informally on all outstanding draft decisions.

3. Report of the Executive Director (Part II)

[*For information – E/ICEF/1999/4 (Part II)*]

This report is prepared in the context of Executive Board decision 1999/7 (E/ICEF/1999/7 (Part I)), adopted at the first regular session of 1999. It reports on progress and achievements made during 1998 against the Board-approved medium-term plan (E/ICEF/1998/13 and Corr.1 and decision 1998/22).

4. Positioning UNICEF to meet the needs of children and women in the twenty-first century

This will be the first in a series of discussions by the Executive Board on how to position UNICEF to meet the needs of children and women in the next century, culminating with an Executive Board decision on future directions at the annual session in 2000.

(a) Three eminent speakers will introduce some key considerations which need to frame the discussion about the future direction of UNICEF:

(i) Dr. Savitri Goonesekere, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, will discuss why the principles of human rights need to serve as the guiding framework for human development;

(ii) Mr. Ricardo Moran, Inter-American Development Bank, will speak on early childhood care and its importance for development;

(iii) Dr. Lincoln Chen, The Rockefeller Foundation, will reflect on the future agenda for human development and children.

(b) The following documents are recommended as background reading to the discussion:

(i) "The future global agenda for children — imperatives for the twenty-first century" (E/ICEF/1999/10);

(ii) "Progress report on follow-up to the World Summit for Children" (E/ICEF/1999/9);

(iii) "Programme cooperation for children and women from a human rights perspective" (E/ICEF/1999/11).

The Board may also wish to comment on the above reports and provide guidance to the secretariat as necessary.

5. Ensuring children's rights in Africa

[*For information – E/ICEF/1999/12*]

As requested by the Executive Board, this report reviews progress made in the implementation of decision 1997/19 (E/ICEF/1997/12/Rev.1), adopted at its 1997 annual session, on ensuring children's rights to survival, development and protection in Africa. It also responds to a request for specific information on how the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for Africa is being implemented in the field. The Board may wish to comment on the report and provide guidance to the secretariat, as necessary.

6. Progress, challenges and future strategies in basic education

[*For action – E/ICEF/1999/14*]

The Executive Board last reviewed a report on UNICEF strategies in basic education at its 1995 annual session (E/ICEF/1995/16 and decision 1995/21). The Executive Board decided to include a report on progress and challenges in achieving universal basic education on the agenda of the present session (decision 1998/19). The Board may wish to consider and approve the draft decision contained in the report.

7. Progress report on the UNICEF strategy and investments in information technology

[*For information – E/ICEF/1999/AB/L.6]*

Responding to a request from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a comprehensive "office automation" strategy in the context of their review of the biennial support budget for 1998-1999 (E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.1 and Corr.1) at the first regular Board session of 1998 (E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.2), the secretariat offered to submit, through the Advisory Committee, a progress report on the UNICEF strategy and investments in information technology. The Board may wish to comment on the report and provide guidance to the secretariat, as necessary.

The Advisory Committee has informed the secretariat that it will not issue a report on the UNICEF information technology strategy for the present session. Any comments will be included in their report on the biennial support budget, which will be presented at the second regular Board session in September.

8. Progress report on mainstreaming gender in UNICEF

[*For information – E/ICEF/1999/13*]

In view of the importance of mainstreaming gender, particularly in the context of implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action, the Executive Board decided at its second regular session of 1998 to include this item on the agenda of the present session (decision 1998/19).

9. Oral report on implementation of the health strategy for UNICEF

In endorsing the "Implementation plan of the health strategy for UNICEF" (E/ICEF/1997/3) at its first regular session of 1997, the Executive Board requested the secretariat to report

orally at the present session on progress made in the implementation of the strategy (decision 1997/9).

10. Reports on field visits of Executive Board members

[*For information – E/ICEF/1999/CRP.8 and E/ICEF/1999/CRP.9*]

Selected by their respective regional groups, a team of Executive Board members visited Colombia and Peru in the Americas and Caribbean region, and another team visited Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania in the Eastern and Southern Africa region to observe UNICEF programme activities in the field. Each team will present its report on the field visits.

11. Other matters

The Board may consider discussing any other issues that it finds timely and appropriate under this agenda item.

12. Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board

The Executive Director and the President will make concluding remarks, followed by the closure of the session.

Annex

Proposed timetable and organization of work for the 1999 annual session of the Executive Board, 7-11 June*

Monday, 7 June	a.m.	Item 1	Opening of the session: statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director
		Item 2	Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work
		Item 3	Report of the Executive Director (Part II)
	p.m.	Item 3 (cont'd.)	Report of the Executive Director (Part II) (continued)
Tuesday, 8 June	a.m. and p.m.	Item 4	Positioning UNICEF to meet the needs of children and women in the twenty-first century: (a) Presentations by guest speakers and dialogue with Executive Board members (b) Discussion of the following reports: "The future global agenda for children — imperatives for the twenty-first century"; "Progress report on follow-up to the World Summit for Children"; and "Programme cooperation for children and women from a human rights perspective"
Wednesday, 9 June	a.m.	Item 5	Ensuring children's rights in Africa
	p.m.	Item 6	Progress, challenges and future strategies in basic education
Thursday, 10 June	a.m.	Item 7	Progress report on the UNICEF strategy and investments in information technology
	p.m.	Item 8	Progress report on mainstreaming gender in UNICEF
		Item 9	Oral report on implementation of the health strategy for UNICEF
Friday, 11 June	a.m.	Item 10	Reports on field visits of Executive Board members
		Item 11	Other matters
		Item 12	Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board
	p.m.		

* When consideration of an agenda item concludes ahead of the allocated time, the next item on the agenda will be taken up for consideration and the timetable adjusted accordingly.